GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2751
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
INCREASE FOREST COVER
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any scheme to increase forest cover in the northern States and to bring uniformity in forest policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from various State Governments to increase their forest cover;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the State-wise details of the assistance provided to the States for increasing the forest cover?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has mooted a scheme namely, Gram Van Yojana for afforestation on non-forest lands to increase forest and tree cover, including in the northern States, by involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The National Forest Policy 1988 envisages a national goal to have a minimum one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. The Policy also envisages that in the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover.

(c), (d) & (e) The Ministry is already implementing National Afforestation Programme Scheme aimed at regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas. The scheme is being implemented through Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. During 2007-08 (upto 19.11.2007), proposals for financial assistance to 486 FDA projects have been received in this Ministry from various States, against which 226 proposals have been approved and Rs. 193.23 crores have been released. A statement showing State-wise details is given in the annexure.